NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF JEWISH CONTENT: THE BEST OF THE BUNCH FROM 2004

Compiled by Susan Berman, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland
Edited by Heidi Estrin, Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, Florida and
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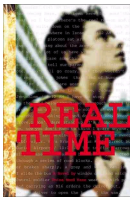
These outstanding books were selected from among the over one hundred titles evaluated by the Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee of the Association of Jewish Libraries during 2004. The Committee recommends them for library, classroom, and home use. Visit www.jewishlibraries.org for more information about the Sydney Taylor Book Awards.

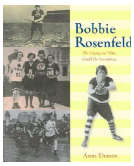
2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR BOOK AWARD FOR OLDER READERS:



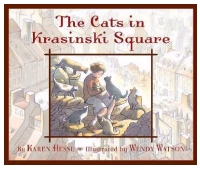
Kass, Pnina Moed. *Real Time*. New York: Clarion Books, 2004. 186p. $15.00. ISBN: 0618442030.
Hour by hour, we follow a diverse cast of characters up to and beyond the moment of a bus bombing in Israel. The inner lives of kibbutzniks, tourists, soldiers, and even the Palestinian teen who carries the bomb are absorbingly related, revealing how political situations are really composed of many overlapping personal situations. Compellingly written, this stunning portrait of life in modern Israel offers no easy answers, but raises fascinating questions and helps readers connect to the human side of what they see on the news. (Israel Fiction, Grades 8-12)

2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARDS FOR OLDER READERS:

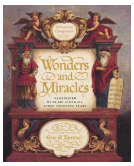
Chotjewitz, David. *Daniel, Half Human, and the Good Nazi*. Trans. by Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. 298p. $17.95. ISBN: 0689857470.
Daniel's life in pre-World War II Germany deteriorates, when he finds out that his mother is Jewish and his best friend Armin becomes a Nazi. (Holocaust Fiction, Grades 8-12)



Dublin, Anne. *Bobbie Rosenfeld: The Olympian Who Could Do Everything*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2004. 148p. $11.95. ISBN: 1896764827 pbk.
The true story of Fanny "Bobbie" Rosenfeld, a Canadian Jewish athlete, who participated in the 1928 Olympics when resistance to women in sports was prevalent. (Biography, Grades 3-6)



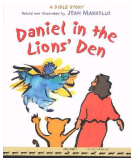
Hesse, Karen. *The Cats in Krasinski Square*. Illus. by Wendy Watson. New York: Scholastic, 2004. 32p. $16.95. ISBN: 0439435404.
A young Jewish girl in occupied Warsaw befriends the many stray cats and helps the Jewish resistance thwart attempts to stop the smuggling of food into the Ghetto by the Nazis. (Holocaust Picture Book, Grades 4-6)



Kimmel, Eric A. *Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*. New York: Scholastic, 2004. 136p. $18.95. ISBN: 0439071755.
A beautifully illustrated volume including a comprehensive collection of stories, poetry, recipes, prayers, and historical facts relating to the holiday of Passover. Winner of the National Jewish Book Award. (Holidays, Grades 4 & up)

Weil, Sylvie. *My Guardian Angel*. Trans. by Gillian Rosner. New York: Scholastic, 2004. 202p. $16.95. ISBN: 0439576814.
A historical novel set in eleventh century Troyes, France in the household of Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac, the great Jewish sage, Rashi, as seen through the eyes of his granddaughter, Elvina. (Historical Fiction, Grades 5-7)

2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR HONOR AWARD FOR YOUNGER READERS:



Marzollo, Jean. *Daniel in the Lions' Den*. New York: Little Brown, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN: 0316741329.
A whimsical version of the biblical story of Daniel with questions and answers from talking ants at the bottom of each page. (Bible, Early Childhood – Grade 2)

2004 NOTABLE BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS:

Adler, David A. *The Kids' Catalog of Hanukkah*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2004. 218p. $16.95. ISBN: 0827608055 pbk.
Another title in the *Kids' Catalog* series, focusing on Hanukkah and filled with facts, stories, songs, games, recipes, and crafts. (Holidays, Grades 3-5)

Allon, Hagit and Lena Zehavi. *The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Illus. by Yossi Abulafia. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2004. 60p. $12.95. ISBN: 0152163913 pbk.
In this over-sized, illustrated chapter book, readers follow the adventures of Daniel, an eleven-year-old boy living in contemporary Jerusalem, as he works on a project for school about the Dead Sea Scrolls. (Israel, Grades 3-5)

Feiler, Bruce. *Walking the Bible: An Illustrated Journey for Kids*. Illus. by Sasha Meret. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. 108p. $16.99. ISBN: 00605111706.
Feiler, accompanied by Israeli archaeologist, Avner Goren, visits places in the Middle East where biblical stories may have taken place including the Creation story, Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Exodus, and the receiving of the Ten Commandments. (Bible, Grades 3-6)

Goldstein, Margaret J. *Israel in Pictures*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2004. 80p. $20.95. ISBN: 1580130887.
This revised overview of Israel, which is part of the *Visual Geography* series, focuses on the geography and history of both ancient and modern Israel. It includes a timeline, suggested websites, and an index. (Israel, Grades 7-12)

Grossman, David. *Duel*. Trans. by Betsy Rosenberg. New York: Bloomsbury, 2004. 112p. $15.95. ISBN: 1582349304.
David attempts to unravel the mystery between two elderly men who he meets in the Hebrew Home for the Aged while doing community service. (Israel Fiction, Grades 3-5)

Johnston, Tony. *The Harmonica*. Illus. Ron Mazellan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN 1570915474.
A young boy survives in a concentration camp because he can play Shubert on his harmonica, which the commandant asks for every night. (Holocaust Picture Book, Grades 5-12)

Kacer, Kathy. *The Underground Reporters*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2004. 156p. $11.95. ISBN: 1896764851 pbk.
A group of Jewish children in a small town in Czechoslovakia publish a newspaper called Klepy, or "gossip" in Czech, during World War II, until they are deported to concentration camps. (Holocaust, Grades 4-6)

Kaplan, Kathy Walden. *The Dog of Knots*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004. 128 pages. $15.00. ISBN: 0802852599.
A slice of life in Haifa, Israel during the time of the Yom Kippur War as told through the eyes of Mayim, a young Jewish girl. (Israel Fiction, Grades 4-6)

Karwoski, Gail Langer. *Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906*. Illus. by Robert Papp. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2004. 153p. $14.95. ISBN: 1561453102.
The 1906 San Francisco earthquake is the backdrop for a story of two thirteen year old boys, one Jewish, one Chinese, who have banded together along with a stray dog, in search of their respective families from whom they were separated. (Historical Fiction, Grades 3-5)

Matas, Carol. *Rosie in Los Angeles: Action!* New York: Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2004. 120p. $4.99. ISBN: 0689857160 pbk.
Rosie finds adventure when her family moves to the foothills of Los Angeles to start their own film production company. This third book in the series follows *Rosie in New York: Gotcha!* and *Rosie in Chicago: Play Ball!* (Historical Fiction, Grades 3-5)

McKay, Sharon E. *Esther*. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2004. 320p. $12.99. ISBN: 0143312049 pbk.
Esther, a young Jewish girl in 18th century France, must conceal her real identity to survive and disguises herself as a boy in order to become the first Jew to arrive in New France. (Historical Fiction, Grades 8-12)

McPherson, Stephanie. *Albert Einstein*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2004. 48p. $18.95. ISBN: 1580130941.
An upbeat biography of Einstein using anecdotes and photographs. (Biography, Grades 3-5)

Moscowitz, Moshe. *The Queen of Persia*. Illus. by David Sokoloff. Chicago: Shazak Productions, 2004. 107p. $21.95. ISBN: 1930925093.
A lively "graphic novel" presentation of the story of Purim. (Bible, Grades 3-6)

Rabb, M. E. *Missing Persons: The Chocolate Lover*. New York: Speak/Penguin Putnam, 2004. 193p. $5.99. ISBN: 0142500410 pbk.
Teenaged Jewish sisters Sam and Sophie Shattenberg, change their identities as they flee from New York to a small town in Indiana and open a detective agency. *The Chocolate Lover* is full of Jewish flavor, but the focus is on the solving of mysteries. Don't miss the rest of the *Missing Persons* series: *The Rose Queen*, *The Venetian Policeman*, and *The Unsuspecting Gourmet*. (Contemporary Fiction, Grades 7-9)

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *L'Chaim! To Jewish Life in America!* New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004. 176p. $24.95. ISBN: 0810950359.
From New Amsterdam in 1654 to modern Jewish life in the U.S. today, this history includes many photographs of famous Jews and artifacts from the Jewish Museum, and a detailed index of Jewish American history. (History, Grades 6-10)

Schroeder, Peter W. and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand. *Six Million Paper Clips*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/ Lerner, 2004. 64p. $17.95. ISBN: 1580131697.
One teacher's desire to teach about intolerance led to a three year project in which the entire community of Whitwell, Tennessee participated, culminating in the building of a Holocaust memorial. (Holocaust, Grades 3-6)

Sherman, Josepha. *Your Travel Guide to Ancient Israel*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2004. 96p. $19.95. ISBN: 0822530724.
Written as a time travel log back to an ancient culture, the reader can experience daily life in ancient Israel. (Israel, Grades 5-7)

Sofer, Barbara. *Ilan Ramon: Israel's Space Hero*. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. 64p. $16.95. ISBN: 1580131158.
This basic biography covers Ilan Ramon's childhood, his Bar Mitzvah, his service in the army, and his path to becoming the first Israeli astronaut, with details about his family, friends and colleagues. (Biography, Grades 3-5)

Speregen, Devra Newberger. *Ilan Ramon: Jewish Star*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2004. 111p. $9.95. ISBN: 0827607695 pbk.
A well written biography of Ilan Ramon concentrating on his military career and life as an astronaut. (Biography, Grades 5-7)

Steinberg, Judy and Barbara Tabs. *Matzah Meals: A Passover Cookbook for Kids* (revised edition). Illus. by Bill Hauser. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. 63p. $7.95. ISBN: 1580130860 pbk.
Good advice to young cooks plus suggestions and crafts for the Seder are the prelude to this collection of recipes that range from the no-cooking variety for young children to more complicated ones for teens. (Holidays, Grades 2-5)

2004 NOTABLE BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS:

Adelson, Leone. *The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story*. Illus. by Naomi Howland. New York: Clarion, 2004. 32p. $15.00. ISBN: 0618337253.
A young bear is mistaken for a costumed reveler when he wakes up from his winter sleep and follows the wonderful smells coming from a cottage where the townspeople are celebrating Purim. (Holidays, Early Childhood – Grade 1)

Edwards, Michelle. *Papa's Latkes*. Illus. by Stacey Schuett. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2004. 32p. $15.99. ISBN: 0763607797.
A sad, sweet and unsentimental story that takes place at Hanukkah, the first a father and his two daughters have observed since Mama died. (Holidays, Grades 1-3)

Glaser, Linda. *Mrs. Greenberg's Messy Hanukkah*. Illus. by Nancy Cote. Chicago: Albert Whitman, 2004. 32p. ISBN: 1930143877.
Instead of going with her parents to do errands on the first night of Hanukkah, Rachel visits Mrs. Greenberg next door and proceeds to mess up her immaculate kitchen while making potato latkes. (Holidays, Early Childhood – Grade 2)

Hoffman, Lawrence A. and Ron Wolfson. ***What You Will See Inside a Synagogue*****. Illus. by Bill Aron. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2004. 32p. $17.99. ISBN: 2895074127.**
A short introduction to the Jewish religion precedes many photographs that show what goes on in Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist synagogues in North America, such as prayer, life cycle events, and holidays. (Judaism, Grades 3-6)

Koralek, Jenny. ***The Coat of Many Colors*****. Illus. by Pauline Baynes. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004. 32p. $16.00. ISBN: 0802852777.**
A simple retelling of the biblical story of Joseph, boldly illustrated. (Bible, Kindergarten – Grade 3)

Kropf, Latifa Berry. ***It's Sukkah Time!*** **Illus. by Ted Cohen. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. 24p. $10.95. ISBN: 1580130844.**
Photographs of preschoolers decorating a sukkah and celebrating the holiday make this book a delight. Don't miss Kropf's other 2004 holiday books, *It's Seder Time!* and *It's Hanukkah Time!* (Holidays, Early Childhood)

Marzollo, Jean. ***David and Goliath*****. New York: Little Brown, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN: 0316471388.**
A simple retelling of the biblical story of David and Goliath, with talking lambs at the bottom of each page. (Bible, Early Childhood – Grade 2)

Marzollo, Jean. ***Jonah and the Whale (and the Worm)*****. New York: Little Brown, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN: 0316471345.**
The biblical story of Jonah is told with the help of a worm and the octopus at the bottom of each page. (Bible, Early Childhood – Grade 2)

Marzollo, Jean. ***Miriam and Her Brother Moses*****. New York: Little Brown, 2004. 32p. $15.95. ISBN: 0802852513.**
The biblical story of Moses' adoption has fish giving commentary at the bottom of each page. (Bible, Early Childhood – Grade 2)

Musleah, Rahel. ***Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah*****. Illus. by Judy Jarrett. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004. 64p. $7.95. ISBN: 1580131239 pbk.**
Musleah gives us a complete Seder for the Rosh Hashanah holiday, including background information, stories, and songs, all centered upon special foods from different Jewish communities around the world. (Holidays, Grades 3 & up)

Portnoy, Mindy Avra. ***Where Do People Go When They Die?*** **Illus. by Shelly O. Haas. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben/ Lerner, 2004. 24p. $15.95. ISBN: 158013081X.**
A variety of answers to the title question, "where do people go when they die?" are offered appropriately for young children. (Life Cycles, Early Childhood – Grade 3)

2004 SYDNEY TAYLOR BODY OF WORK AWARD WINNER:

Eric Kimmel, author of over fifty children's books, has written more than twenty books of Jewish interest during his illustrious career, including *Wonders and Miracles: A Passover Companion*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award and a 2004 Sydney Taylor Honor Book. He won the Sydney Taylor Book Award in 2000 for *Gershon's Monster* and in 1990 for *The Chanukah Guest*.

The members of the 2004 Sydney Taylor Book Award Committee are: **Heidi Estrin**, Chair, Congregation B'nai Israel, Boca Raton, FL; **Nancy Austein**, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, TX; **Susan Berman**, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, Baltimore, MD; **Marci Lavine Bloch**, Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC; **Andi Davidson**, Temple-Tifereth Israel, Beachwood, OH; **Rachel Kamin**, Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, MI; **Marion Stein**, A.J. Heschel High School, New York, NY; and **Etta Gold**, Compiler, Temple Beth Am, Miami, FL.

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